

Barre Agency of Human Services Staff Newsletter

February 27, 2007
7th Issue



The Agency of Human Services mission is to work as one agency, in partnership with communities, to provide effective services that are delivered respectfully, easy to access, well-coordinated, & aimed at providing well-being & intervening before crisis.

Upcoming Barre AHS Staff Events

March 2 from 11:30 am to 1:00 – **Barre AHS Lunch Buffet** at Probation & Parole (3rd Floor – Courthouse) – **all staff are invited** – lunch provided by Probation & Parole and Family Services Division of DCF.

March 19 from 2:00 to 4:30 pm – **Bridges Out of Poverty** overview, Capitol Plaza, Montpelier, this is an overview and staff who have not experienced this training are encouraged to attend, contact beth@unitedwaycc.org.

March 29 from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon – Coordinated Services Planning for Children/Youth with Complex Needs & their Families, Barre Elks Lodge, contact sthompson@u32.org – this training is sponsored by our Local Interagency Team (LIT) - staff from Family Services, Economic Services and Voc Rehab, in particular, are encouraged to attend.

April 4 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm – Supporting Parents with Disabilities, Penthouse Conference Room, McFarland, contact cindy.miller@ahs.state.vt.us – this workshop is jointly sponsored by the Green Mountain Family Support Network & Barre AHS.

April 20 from 8:30 am to 12:00 noon – New Barre AHS Staff Orientation – recently hired Barre AHS staff will convene at the Field Services offices in McFarland and visit each of the AHS offices for a brief orientation session at each dept/division – for information, contact cindy.miller@ahs.state.vt.us.

April 26 thru April 28 – Barre Agency of Human Services will have three display tables at the **Barre Rotary Home and Health Show**, Barre Auditorium. For information, contact don.mandelkorn@ahs.state.vt.us.

June 4 from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm – The 4th Barre Agency of Human Services Staff Day, Barre Elks Lodge. We'll solicit workshop proposals from our own staff and we'll invite our community partners to share resource information. More details to follow, but feel free to contact me at don.mandelkorn@ahs.state.vt.us if you have questions or ideas.

Success Stories from your Colleagues

Many of you have suggested that we share our success stories with one another - here are a few to get us started. Please send along your success stories to us for future newsletters.

From Economic Services –

“I have been working with “Amy” (not her real name) for about a year. When I first started, Amy was a young woman with four young children, who had an off-and-on relationship with the father of her last child and she was basically homeless, either staying at her mother's home or at a local motel in temporary housing. She was in one of the earlier Service Coordination groups with Stephanie Krauss and Amy got a lot support from that effort. One of the biggest boons to Amy was her getting permanent housing. We're doing rent vendors to support that. This changed so much for Amy. She would come to a visit with me and tell me how great it was to go into her kitchen and be able to prepare meals for herself and her children. (The last father is no longer together with Amy but does see his son regularly.)

I referred her to the Making It Work Program and Amy transformed herself with this four times a week support. Her attendance was excellent and she then went into a placement right at Making It Work. Amy went to a job interview at a new technology firm that was opening up in Waterbury and got hired into a part-time position. Amy has blossomed with the support of Making It Work. She's working and loves her job. She has permanent housing. She is making progress toward her goals.

It's great to see all of the work Amy has done to help herself. While the people and the team really helped out, she deserves most of the credit. The staff at Making It Work, Stephanie Krauss and I all worked hard to support Amy.” – submitted by George Spontak of Economic Services

From Vocational Rehabilitation –

“Youth in transition seems to be the hot topic in Vermont. There have been discussions about how to better support transitioning youth and how to implement different programs to support transitioning youth. There have been fewer discussions about the successes of youth transitioning into the work place.

Here at the Barre VR office the school Transition Counselor had been working on finding a young man employment for over a year and a half. This individual has a learning disability in reading, writing and processing. In order to find employment this individual needed certain accommodations such as; few directions at a time to accommodate slow processing; and also verbal instruction coupled with written instruction to help get tasks done on the job.

This individual tried very hard to go to college for a few semesters and also worked part time for a few different places around town. However; none of these things seemed to satisfy this person’s employment needs.

In reviewing this case a few times, it was interesting to find that there was mention of becoming a security guard many times in the past. VR connected this individual with the job developer from VABIR and we collaborated in finding this individual a job as a security guard. It took some time, as most job development does, but, this person did find a job and has been employed now for over three months. This was a successful transition; however it takes time and collaboration in order to help an individual with a disability to become employed.”

Public Service Recognition Week **May 7 thru May 11**

Public Service Recognition Week is celebrated nationally to show appreciation to public service employees and to showcase the services we provide.

A highlight of Vermont's celebration is a ceremony, hosted by Governor Jim Douglas, to honor outstanding state employee and teams. The luncheon is scheduled for Monday, May 7 from 11:30 am to 1:30 at the Union Institute (formerly VT College) in Montpelier.

Barre AHS Award Process –

Any employee can submit a nomination for an individual or a team. Individuals must have 3 or more years of experience and teams must've worked together for at least 6 months.

All nominations must be submitted to the Field Director (me!) by Monday, March 12 so we can submit them to the AHS nominating committee by Thursday, March 15.

Full details and forms will be shared with managers and administrative assistants this week.

If you have any questions, let me know. Thanks!!

The next Barre AHS Staff Newsletter will be issued the end of March – we plan to issue a newsletter every month at the end of each month – feel free to send along suggestions or items.

Thanks – Don Mandelkorn

don.mandelkorn@ahs.state.vt.us

479-7594

Cindy Miller

Cindy.miller@ahs.state.vt.us

479-4406